Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for the production of an improved raffinate-resistant amino acid producing bacterial strain B comprising:

(a) subjecting a parental bacterial strain A to mutagenesis;

(b) contacting said mutagenized parental strain A with a medium containing at least about 1% raffinate based on ammonia content;

(c) selecting a raffinate-resistant bacterial strain B; and

(d) determining amino acid production of said raffinate-resistant bacterial strain B.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein said parental bacterial strain is subjected to random chemical mutagenesis.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein said parental bacterial strain is selected from a group consisting of:

(a) *Corynebacterium sp.;*

(b) *Brevibacterium sp.*;

(c) *Escherichia coli*; and

(d) *Bacillus sp.*

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain B produces an amino acid selected from the group consisting of:

(a) glycine;

(b) alanine;

(c) methionine;

(d) phenylalanine;

(e) tryptophan;

(f) proline;

(g) serine;

(h) threonine;

(i) cysteine;

(j) tyrosine;

(k) asparagine;

(l) glutamine;

(m) aspartic acid;

(n) glutamic acid;

(o) lysine;

(p) arginine;

(q) histidine;

(r) isoleucine;

(s) leucine; and

(t) valine.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein said parental bacterial strain is *Corynebacterium sp.* producing L-Lysine.

6. (Currently amended) An isolated raffinate-resistant bacterial strain B that produces an amino acid, wherein said strain was produced by a process comprising:

(a) subjecting a parental bacterial strain A to mutagenesis;

(b) culturing the mutagenized parental strain ~~with~~ in a bacterial culture medium containing at least about 1% heat sterilized raffinate based on ammonia sulfate content; and

(c) selecting [[a]] said raffinate-resistant bacterial strain B from the bacterial culture medium containing said mutagenized parental strain of part b wherein said strain B is able to grow in raffinate medium which has been heat-sterilized.

7. (Previously presented) The isolated bacterial strain of Claim 6, wherein the parental bacterial strain A is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) *Corynebacterium sp.*;

(b) *Brevibacterium sp.*;

(c) *Escherichia coli*, and

(d) *Bacillus sp.*

8. (Currently amended) The isolated bacterial strain of Claim 7, wherein said bacterial strain B produces an[[d]] amino acid selected from the group consisting of:

(a) glycine;

(b) alanine;

(c) methionine;

(d) phenylalanine;

(e) tryptophan;

(f) proline;

(g) serine;

(h) threonine;

(i) cysteine;

(j) tyrosine;

(k) asparagine;

(l) glutamine;

(m) aspartic acid;

(n) glutamic acid;

(o) lysine;

(p) arginine;

(q) histidine;

(r) isoleucine;

(s) leucine; and

(t) valine.

9. (Currently amended) An isolated *Corynebacterium* strain, wherein said strain produces at least about 10 g/l of L-lysine in 24 hours when grown in a bacterial culture medium containing at least about 1% raffinate.

10. (Withdrawn) A *Brevibacterium* strain producing at least about 10 g/l L-lysine in 24 hours when grown in a medium containing at least about 1% raffinate.

11. (Currently amended) An isolated L-lysine producing *Corynebacterium* strain, wherein said strain is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) NRRL B-30059;

(b) NRRL B-30060;

(c) NRRL B-30061;

(d) NRRL ~~B30062~~ B-30062;

(e) NRRL B-30063; and

(f) a mutant[[s]] of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e), wherein said mutant has ~~an~~ increased L-lysine amino acid production ~~of a desired amino acid as~~ when compared to the ~~production of the same amino acid in~~ L-lysine producing *Corynebacterium* strain before being mutagenized.

12. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 11, wherein said strain is NRRL B-30059.

13. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 11, wherein said strain is NRRL B-30060.

14. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 11, wherein said strain is NRRL B-30061.

15. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 11, wherein said strain is NRRL B-30062.

16. (Previously presented) The strain of claim 11, wherein said strain is NRRL B-30063.

17. (Withdrawn) A process for the production of an amino acid comprising:

(a) culturing a bacterium B in a medium containing raffinate, whereby said strain is obtained by the following method:

(i) selecting a parental strain A that produces an amino acid;

(ii) subjecting said parental strain to mutagenesis;

(iii) selecting from said mutagenized parental strain, an improved raffinate-resistant bacterial strain B; and

(b) recovering the amino acid from the culture medium.

18. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, wherein the media concentration of raffinate is at least about 1% based on ammonia sulfate content.

19. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, wherein the amount of L-lysine produced is at least about 10 g/l L-lysine in 24 hours.

20. (Withdrawn) the process of claim 17, wherein the medium concentration of raffinate is at least about 1% based on ammonia sulfate content and the amount of L-lysine produced is at least about 10 g/l L-lysine in 24 hours.

21. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, wherein the raffinate concentration is about 5% based on ammonia sulfate content and the amount of L-lysine produced is at least about 10 g/l L-lysine in 24 hours.

22. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 17, wherein bacterium B is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) *Corynebacterium sp.*;

(b) *Brevibacterium sp.*;

(c) *Escherichia coli*; and

(d) *Bacillus sp.*

23. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 22, wherein the bacterium B is *Corynebacterium sp.* selected from the group consisting of:

(a) NRRL B-30059;

(b) NRRL B-30060;

(c) NRRL B-30061;

(d) NRRL B30062;

(e) NRRL B-30063; and

(f) mutants of (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e).